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SUMMARY

GENERAL

		WESTERN EUROI	PE		
Germa (page !	n church lea	ders disturbed over	Niemoeller tr	ip to Moscow	
Ireland	d rejects Mut	ual Security Act terr	ns (page 5).		
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GENERAL

1.	London Embass	sy reports b	asic British posit	ion toward USSR:	
25X1A	Foreign Secret	ary Eden ha	The US Embass although it is in Minister Church talks about USSI ve with them a pa	y in London reports appossible to predict aill may say in the 'R-Western relations aper, approved by the officials feel is clos	what Prime Washington s, he and he Joint Chiefs
	agreement is in strength while "parity of stren	mpossible ar keeping char ngth'' is reac a period in v	ree stages: (1) the during which the needs of negotiation the ched, in which ling which the Soviet e	eports that this pape ne current phase, in ne West should build on open; (2) the pe nited agreements m mpire will start cru	n which d up its riod after nay be pos-
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WESTERN EUROPE

24	~			A74 11	trip to Moscow:
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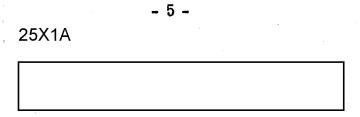
25X1A	Protestant Church leaders in West Germany, mixed in their reaction to Pastor Niemoeller's current visit to Moscow, point out that the trip will be a substantial Soviet propaganda victory
	even if the USSR goes no further than to talk about concessions such as the
	release of German prisoners of war.

Church officials, wholly surprised by the suddenness of Niemoeller's trip, are not hopeful of great results, but feel that the average churchman with relatives still held in the USSR will be enthusiastic. Niemoeller critics are more than ever convinced that, unwittingly or not, he is playing the Soviet game. Bishop Dibelius, the head of the Protestant Church, although agreeing partially with criticism of the visit, wishes to refrain from public censure in order not to publicize church differences.

Comment: Niemoeller's trip coincides with current Soviet pressure to prevent West German integration with the West. His public statements since the end of the war, particularly his neutralist views, have aroused considerable criticism. In April 1951, after a rebuke from Bishop Dibelius, he stated that he would refrain from political utterances. He has nevertheless continued to speak, with the support of a minority of Evangelical Church leaders.

5. Ireland rejects Mutual Security Act terms:

25X1A	I reland is not prepared to accept the terms of the Mutual Security Act because of the implied involvement in collective Western defense.
	Although Irish officials hope that projects already approved under ECA will be carried out without a new agreement
	they are prepared to sacrifice the financial benefits involved, amounting about one million dollars, rather than sign the MSA agreement.



The Embassy believes that pressure on the Irish Government would be undesirable in view of possible "internal political repercussions."

Comment: The Irish Government replied to the original submission of the MSA agreement with a statement on Partition — the perennial excuse for not joining Western defense plans — and a renewed request to buy US arms. The amount of money involved is evidently not enough to make the Irish Government run the risk of domestic political attack for appearing to violate its neutrality policy.

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